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Families and Human Services VC  
Government Operations  
Health Policy

# The Jacobs Report

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, January 9, 2004**

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## **PRIMARY SEASON HEATS UP A FRIGID WINTER**

Last week, Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) became the first state lawmaker to endorse retired General Wesley Clark for president. In recent days, Clark has also enlisted the support of U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee (D-Flint) and three-term state Rep. Julie Dennis (D-Muskegon).

"Gilda Jacobs has been a trailblazer for women in politics since she was first elected to public office," said General Clark. "She is consistently a champion of women's and children's rights and has fought for people with developmental disabilities. I am thrilled to have Gilda Jacobs on my team."

"Now more than ever, America needs a higher standard of leadership," Senator Jacobs said. "Wes Clark will fight for families by providing educational opportunity, access to health care, and sweeping tax reforms which will benefit people across Michigan."

Less than a month away from the Feb. 7 Democratic Presidential Caucus, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) have sizeable leads in the number of political endorsements from state and locally elected officials. U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt (D-Mo.) has the support of five Democratic state senators and former gubernatorial candidate David Bonior.

According to Zogby polling, Sen. Kerry enjoyed an early front-runner status in July, when he led all other Democratic presidential hopefuls in Michigan. His lead was quickly eclipsed, however, by the sudden rise of former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, who holds current leads in the pivotal early primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. Gephardt is neck-and-neck with Dean in Iowa, with Clark gaining and Kerry faltering while the other candidates haven't managed to make a ripple. New Hampshire is a different story, with Dean far ahead of the pack (over 40 percent to Kerry's twelve). Clark continues to make steady inroads at 9 percent, passing the faltering campaign of Joe Lieberman (7 percent).

It is conceivable—likely probable—that some of the candidates will have dropped out of the race by the time the primary spotlight shines on Michigan. Primary placement is crucial to public perception, and each failure/success has a domino effect on the next state. Dean, the frontrunner, may suffer from high expectations and relentless pack attacks from Gephardt, Kerry, Edwards and Lieberman. To remain viable, Kerry and Lieberman each need a top-two finish New Hampshire. Gephardt needs to finish first or second in Iowa (although this didn't help Gephardt's ill-fated 1988 presidential campaign, when he ran out of money after winning Iowa). Freshman North Carolina Senator John Edwards needs to win in neighboring South Carolina, where he, Dean, Lieberman, Gephardt and Clark are all neck-and-neck.

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Also-rans Kucinich, Sharpton and Moseley-Braun look to play the role of spoiler, especially Sharpton, who may surprise with a strong performance in the South.

**VOTING IN MICHIGAN'S PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS**

Michigan will play a key role in determining the Democratic nominee for president in 2004. This year's caucus will be the earliest and most accessible vote in history. There are several ways to participate:

**Attend a Presidential Caucus** in your home county on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and cast your vote. To find your proper voting location, please call the Michigan Democratic Party at (517) 371-2056 or visit [www.mi-democrats.com](http://www.mi-democrats.com).

**Vote by mail.** Apply for a mail ballot by calling the Michigan Democratic Party at (517) 371-2056 or visiting [www.mi-democrats.com](http://www.mi-democrats.com).

**Vote over the internet.** Follow the same application process as voting by mail by calling the Michigan Democratic Party at (517) 371-2056 or visiting [www.mi-democrats.com](http://www.mi-democrats.com).

**PLEASE ACT NOW BECAUSE MAIL AND INTERNET APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS BY JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> AT 6:00 P.M.**

**State Senator Gilda Jacobs** represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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